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ARE THE HORSEMEN PROTECTING RIC FLAIR FROM LEX LUGER? July 1987 04683

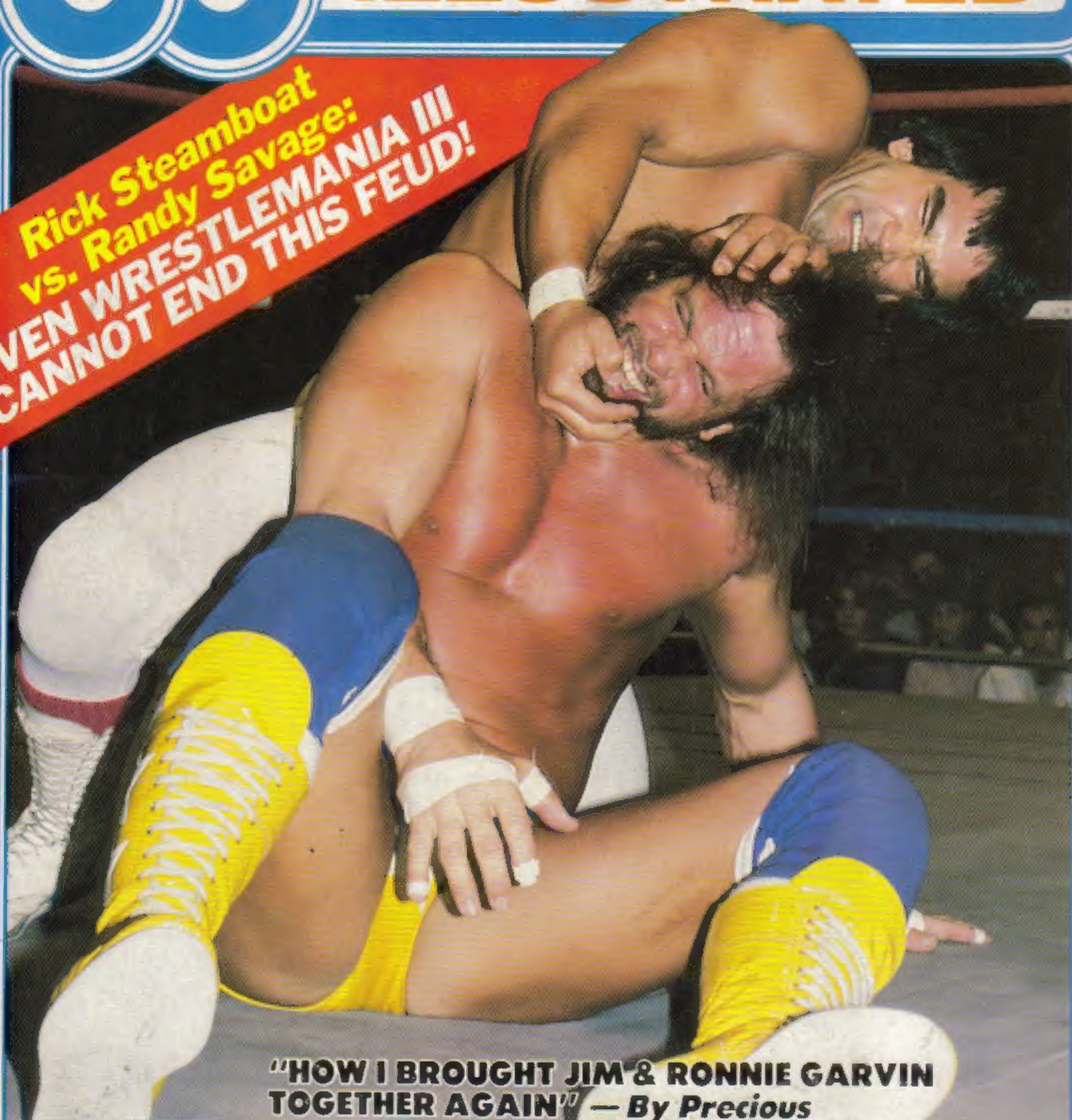
DELL
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PRO Wrestling

ILLUSTRATED

**Rick Steamboat
vs. Randy Savage:
EVEN WRESTLEMANIA III
CANNOT END THIS FEUD!**



**"HOW I BROUGHT JIM & RONNIE GARVIN
TOGETHER AGAIN" — By Precious**

**PWI Special Analysis:
STING MUST TELL EDDIE GILBERT TO BUZZ OFF!
PRESS CONFERENCE: HACKSAW DUGGAN**



RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

DESPITE WHAT TOOK place on the February 28 edition of *World Championship Wrestling*, **The Four Horsemen** will remain intact. That's the word from **J.J. Dillon**, manager of wrestling's fearsome foursome. But serious questions linger in the aftermath of **Ole Anderson's** shocking attack on **Tully Blanchard**.

After Ole and **Arn Anderson** combined to handily defeat **Alan Manton** and **Randy Mulkey**, Dillon, Blanchard, and **Lex Luger** were being interviewed by announcer **Tony Schiavone**. "The Four Horsemen all started with Ole and **Gene Anderson**," said Dillon. "After Gene retired, **Ric Flair** was invited in because he was their cousin. Then they

brought in Tully, who isn't a member of the family, but they didn't care." Blanchard then interrupted Dillon and said: "Wait a minute, I think Ole said that I was an outsider."

Moments later, Ole confronted Tully and asked him if he had something to say. Blanchard took Anderson to task for his recent absence when he was attending his son's match in the state wrestling championships instead of being with the Horsemen. Infuriated, Ole slugged Blanchard and walked off the set.

Dillon came on later in the show and insisted that The Four Horsemen didn't have any internal problems. "I'm sure that if Ole comes on and apologizes, everything will be all right," said Dillon. But when Ole finally returned, he cursed Dillon, and knocked him to the floor.

This brought out Blanchard, who attacked Anderson from behind. Dillon then got up to help Blanchard before things finally settled down.

What's next? Dillon has announced that the Horsemen will meet shortly and try to clear up their differences. On the surface, however, it looks like an irreparable rift exists between Ole and the rest of the Horsemen. And now, with Ole on the outs, will things open up for Luger to become a full member of The Four Horsemen?

Baby Doll has resurfaced in the Universal Wrestling Federation under the name **Nikla**. It all happened after **Dark Journey** suffered a broken vertebrae during a match pitting **Chavo Guerrero** and **The Missing Link** against **Michael Hayes** and **Buddy Roberts** with **Sunshine**. While a six-way brawl was going on, Dark Journey climbed on Hayes'

(Continued on page 52)



Ole Anderson slugs Tully Blanchard as Tony Schiavone watches in horror (above). Later, on *World Championship Wrestling*, J.J. Dillon asks Anderson to apologize, and Anderson punches him, too (below). In spite of all this, Dillon claims all is well with The Four Horsemen.



WFOODS

With CRAIG PETERS

IT'S TIME TO RAZE SPACE MOUNTAIN

Anybody who regularly watches *World Championship Wrestling* on WTBS is certainly aware of the antics of The Four Horsemen. But this item is not intended to discuss the recent rift in the Horsemen, resulting in the feud between Ole Anderson and the rest of the quartet. No, I'd like to say a few words about how the Horsemen—particularly Ric Flair—conduct themselves on interviews.

I'm not quite sure how to say it diplomatically, so I'll just say it plainly: All the double-entendre talk about Space Mountain, about the Horsemen auditioning Space Mountainettes, about the bedroom escapades of the Horsemen—it has absolutely no place in a wrestling program being aired at a time when eight- and nine-year-old kids are watching. Besides which, nobody really cares.

Recently, there's been some talk about the fact that the ratings of *World Championship Wrestling* have taken a sharp dip downward. Maybe allowing Flair and the Andersons and Tully Blanchard and J.J. Dillon to flaunt their adolescent libidos on the air is driving viewers away.

And, frankly, Dusty Rhodes



Ric Flair & Tony Schiavone

doesn't help matters a bit. In response to such interviews, Rhodes comes out and, like a poker player, delivers a response that ups the ante and increases the amount of verbal entendres per program. Flair hears this and

responds in kind. And Rhodes. And Flair. And Anderson. And Dillon. And Lex Luger. And Jim Garvin. And everyone else gets in on the act.

It's an act that should be cleaned up—now!

A STRONG CROP OF YOUNGSTERS

There's a story about Sting in this issue that opens with Editor-in-Chief Peter King's statement about how, "for the most part, the sport depends on the development of young stars. Wrestling draws upon its rookie crop for talent, and unless there is a constant flow of new stars, the sport will die."

Looking at some of the names in the ratings, I have to conclude that wrestling will not soon die. Indeed, it appears to be in a very healthy state.

In addition to Sting, who is one of the very best of the young crop today, there are up-and-coming youngsters such as Dewey Forte, Chris Champion, Sean Royal, Rick Steiner, Vic Steamboat, Steve Simpson, Ed Gantner, and Ron Simmons.

It is interesting to note that most of these wrestlers compete in Florida, though the UWF and World Class are also good proving grounds for young talent. Together, they can support and encourage each other, compete against each other on a similar



The New Breed—Chris Champion & Sean Royal

level, and grow in experience and skill together.

It wasn't too long ago that people were wondering about names like Nikita Koloff, Steve Williams, Lex Luger, Scott Hall, The Midnight Rockers, and Tom Zenk. Today, those wrestlers are the new ruling class of the sport.

And tomorrow, if they stick to it,

it'll be people like Gantner, Forte, Champion, Royal, Steiner, Simpson, Sting, Steamboat, and Simmons.

Keep an eye on these young men, and in particular keep an eye on the Florida area. Because this is one of the spots where tomorrow's top superstars are being bred.

NO GOLD MEDAL FOR HOGAN

Perhaps you noticed an Associated Press story in your local newspaper on March 1 concerning the Olympic Games and—well, Hulk Hogan. Sort of. In case you missed the story:

The U.S. Olympic Committee's executive board ended its two-day meeting yesterday without endorsing an International Olympic Committee proposal to liberalize participation by professionals in future Games.

"Nobody wants Hulk Hogan wrestling for our teams," said [New York Yankees owner] George Steinbrenner, who is a member of the 94-member USOC executive board, which tabled the

endorsement proposal.

Steinbrenner said later he spoke out against approving the IOC proposal because of the potential damage such action could cause fund-raising efforts in the United States.

"I'm a great Hulk Hogan fan, don't get me wrong," said Steinbrenner. "And I think down the road, increased professionalism is going to become part of the Games.

"In certain governments, an athlete is a classification, but not here. I think that's still one of the things that sets American athletes apart, that makes the public proud of them and willing to sup-

port them," he said.

In a related story, it is interesting to note that in mid-1986, Japanese grappler Yoshiaki Yatsu, former All-Japan International tag team champion with Riki Choshu and a superb amateur grappler, announced that he was going to train for the 1988 Olympic Games while maintaining a full schedule of pro matches. Yatsu entered the Japanese national freestyle wrestling championships—and won. But the International Olympic Committee ruled that his status as a professional wrestler prevents him from competing on the amateur side of the sport in the Olympics. □

In a dimly lit apartment on the outskirts of Charlotte, North Carolina, five men sit around a table, drinking beer and talking loudly. One of them, a well-dressed man about six-feet tall with a solid build and bleached-blond

hair, rises from the chair and begins to speak. He appears to be getting angrier with each word. Finally, he pounds his fist on the table and sits down once again.

Then, another man, older, heavier,

and shorter, but also with bleached-blond hair, gets up and starts to speak, but in a more controlled manner. He points to a television set and picks up the remote control unit for a video cassette recorder. The tape begins to play and the four others watch intently as the older man continues to speak.

The man speaking is J.J. Dillon. The man who spoke before him was Ric Flair. The other men present are Arn Anderson, Ole Anderson, and Tully Blanchard. The tape they are viewing is of Lex Luger. It is December 1986 and the wheels have already been set into motion.

"Luger is coming to our area," says Dillon. "Ric, you say you don't want him going after your title, then we have no choice. I know you don't like it, but we're gonna have to make him one of us. It's the only way. Agreed?"

All Four Horsemen respond in unison: "Agreed!"



J.J. Dillon and Tully Blanchard make a payoff to Lex Luger as a Four Horsemen "associate." Observers believe they are really paying the Rookie of the Year not to challenge Horseman Ric Flair, the NWA World champion.

ARE THE HORSEMEN PROTECTING RIC FLAIR FROM LEX LUGER?

Lex Luger has been accused of turning his back on Barry Windham by joining The Four Horsemen. But is Luger really an unwitting victim, having fallen prey to The Horsemen's plan to keep him away from NWA World champion Ric Flair?

THE SCENARIO JUST described is fictitious. Then again, maybe it isn't. The Four Horsemen were formed for the expressed purpose of helping each other: "All for one and one for all," the motto made famous by The Three Musketeers, is their theme. Outsiders are not allowed into this tight clique.

So, for the sake of logic, let's consider the situation chronologically. When Barry Windham decided to pack his bags and leave Florida for the World Championship area, ev-

erybody assumed that his good friend Lex Luger would soon follow suit. After all, it is common knowledge that Luger and Windham had expended much energy working out a plan to defeat Flair.

Apparently, it was time to carry out that plan. For good reason, Ric Flair became worried. When Luger and Windham were in Florida, he

only had to worry about them a handful of times during the year. But with Luger and Windham in the World Championship area, there would be a daily, double-barreled assault on his precious title.

As it turned out, Windham alone was more trouble than Flair had expected. Windham had shown tremendous improvement during 1986 and actually learned some things from the rookie Luger, such as how to harness his power and use it to his best advantage. In the eyes of many observers, Windham was an even bigger threat to Flair than perennial rival Dusty Rhodes and the feared Russian Nikita Koloff.

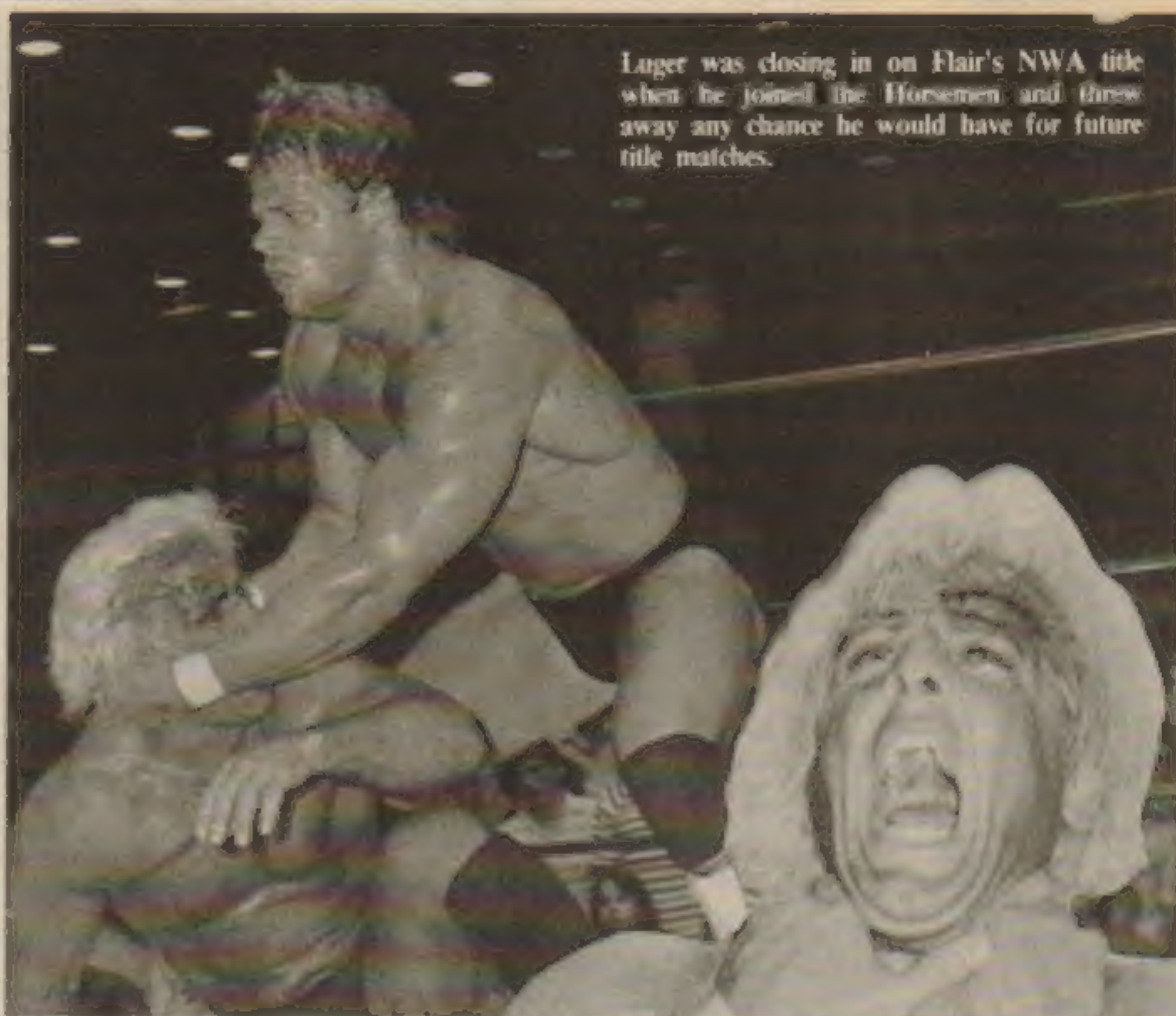
Flair was being set up, the victim of a classic sting. Windham would come to the World Championship area first, reveal Flair's weaknesses, and soften him up for the kill. Then, after Luger arrived, either of the two would have little trouble winning the belt.

So J.J. Dillon got on the phone and gave Luger a call. What he said probably went along these lines: "Lex, I have an offer for you. I'd like for you to become a member of The Four Horsemen. Of course, you'd have to start out by becoming an associate, but the money I can guarantee you would be more than anything you could get by winning the World championship. How about it? And by the way, if anyone asks, you're to say that you wanted to become a member of the Horsemen, and contacted us? Deal?"

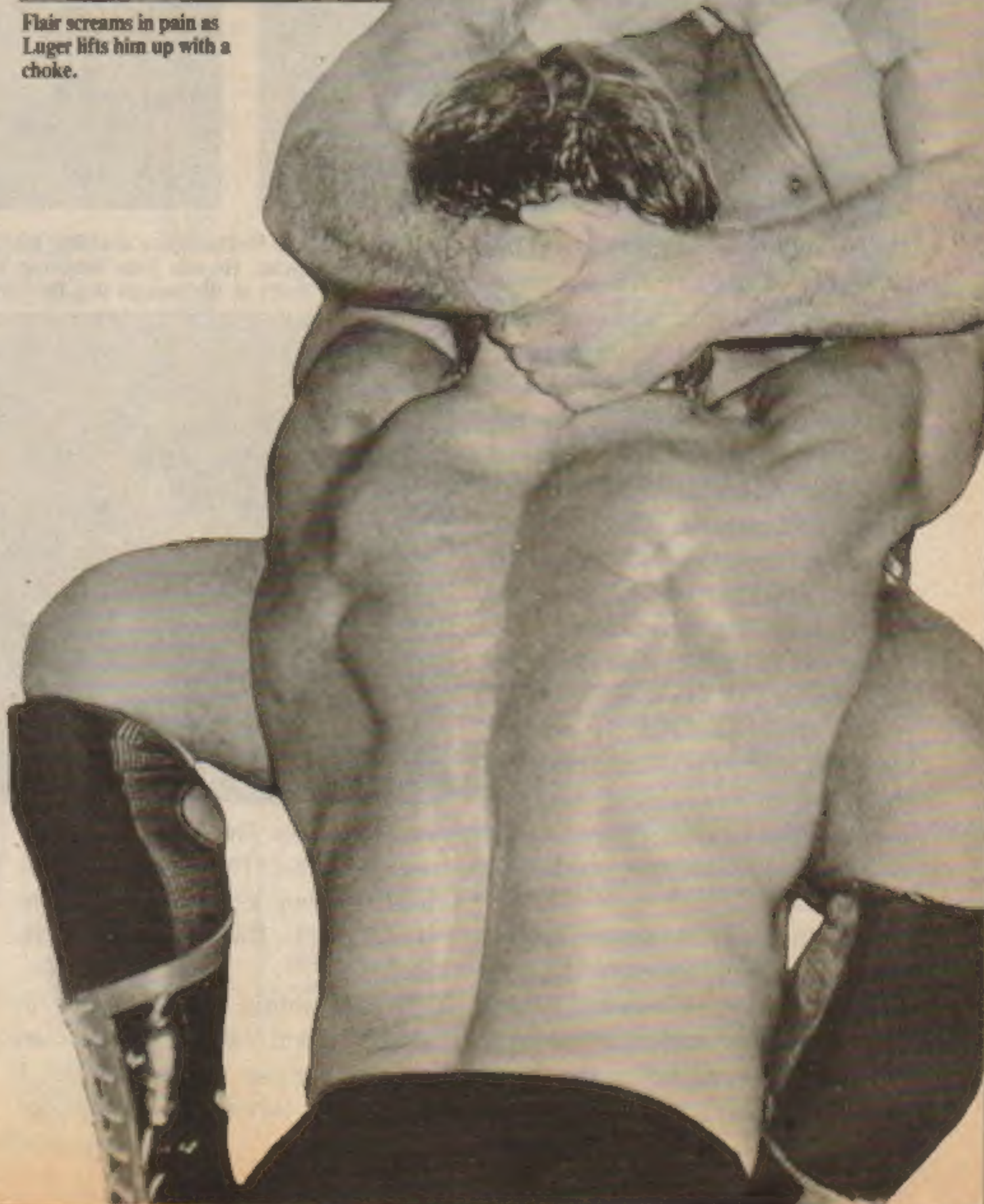
Deal. Luger was young and impressionable. He jumped at the opportunity. Now, secrecy was a must. It was widely assumed that Luger had come to the World Championship area to go after Flair. Not until his first appearance on WTBS' *World Championship Wrestling* program did Luger reveal that he wanted to become a member of The Four Horsemen. The wrestling world was shocked and The Four Horsemen laughed.

But who were they laughing at?

Luger was closing in on Flair's NWA title when he joined the Horsemen and threw away any chance he would have for future title matches.



Flair screams in pain as Luger lifts him up with a choke.





The question is very real: Is Lex Luger the accused or the victim?

As long as he is associated with The Four Horsemen, Luger will never get a shot at Flair's NWA World heavyweight championship, the belt he has yearned for ever since he became a professional wrestler. Those best-of-three falls, 60-minute time-limit classics of last summer are history, never to be relived unless Luger leaves the Horsemen.

Flair did not forget. Flair never forgets. It is one of the reasons why he is the champion. Flair is not the strongest man in wrestling. He is not the fastest or most skilled. But he is the smartest. Ric Flair's greatest asset is his mind. Remember, he's Slick Ric.

And The Four Horsemen are his insurance policy. By signing Luger, the Horsemen eliminated Flair's most imposing challenger, while at the same time redirecting the threatening Windham into a feud with the

Luger drops Wahoo McDaniel in a straddling position along the ropes (above left) and wins a test of strength (above right). He tells Tony Schiavone why he has decided to join The Four Horsemen (below). Luger scoffs at the thought that the Horsemen are protecting Flair.



fifth Horsemen. The Horsemen must have felt that Flair couldn't beat Luger, so they let Luger join them. Naturally, J.J. Dillon denies these charges.

"Totally untrue and absolutely libelous," claims Dillon. "I guarantee you that if these lies are printed, I will sue *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* for

millions of dollars. Let me see the evidence. Show me one ounce of proof that this is true. Ric Flair requires no protection and Lex Luger is with us because he is worthy of the Horsemen."

Maybe so, but the idea cannot be ignored. Are The Four Horsemen protecting Ric Flair? □

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

**PRESS
CONFERENCE
HACKSAW
DUGGAN**

THESE ARE DAYS of mourning in the UWF. Hacksaw Duggan is gone—lost, perhaps forever, to the massive wrestling conglomerate known as the World Wrestling Federation. Hacksaw Duggan, the country boy, good ol' down-to-earth Hacksaw Duggan, a man whose no-nonsense style characterized the UWF and made him one of the most popular men in the sport, has left for Vince McMahon's nationwide carnival of stars.

"Hacksaw Duggan is the last man I ever thought would sign on with McMahon," said UWF President Bill Watts. "But I guess, when you look at the entire situation, he didn't have much of a choice."

That's the sad truth of the situation. Duggan didn't have a choice. After coming out on the short end of a loser-leave-town match to UWF champion One Man Gang in mid-January, Duggan was gone and he had to leave behind the tag team title he was defending with Terry Taylor.

So where should he go? By this

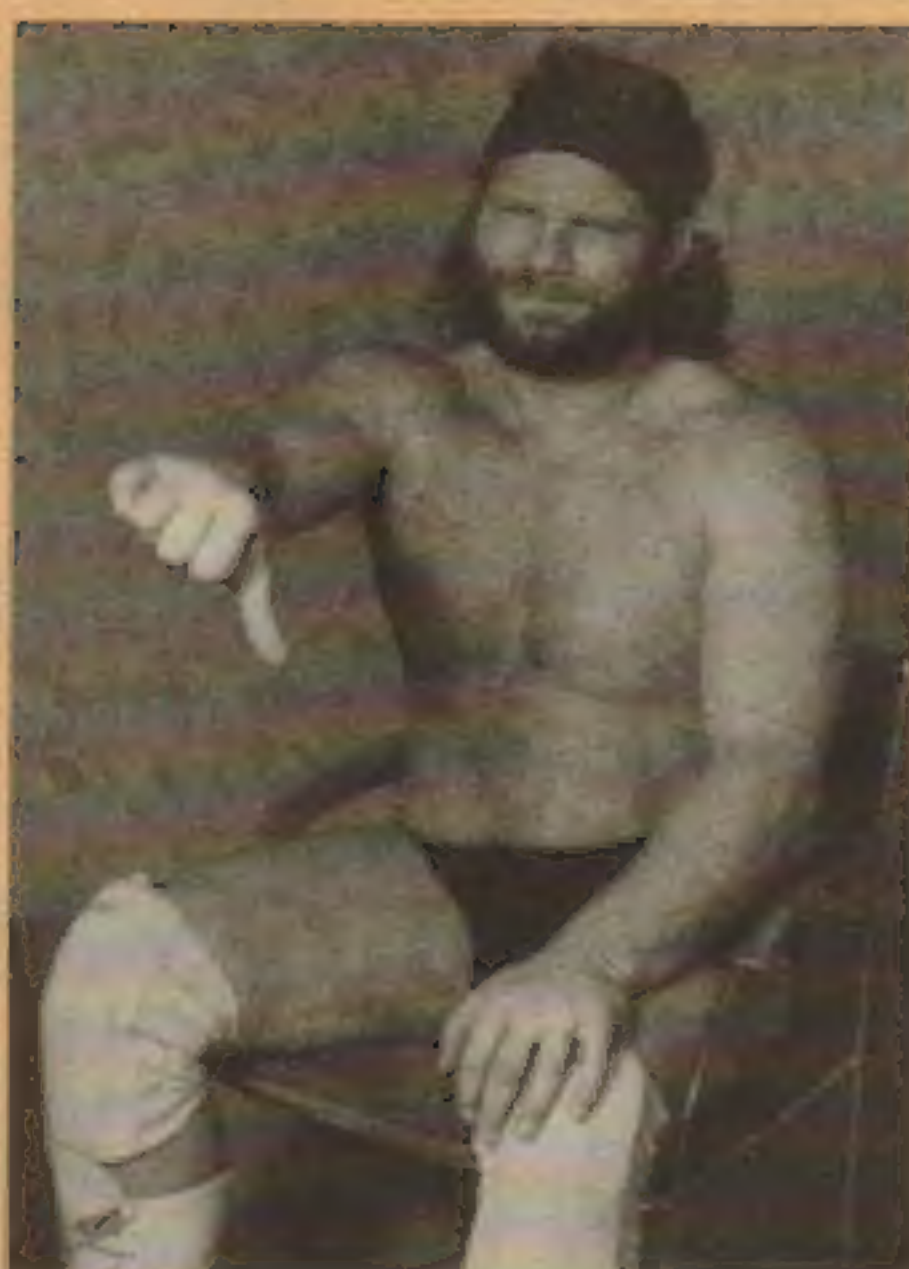
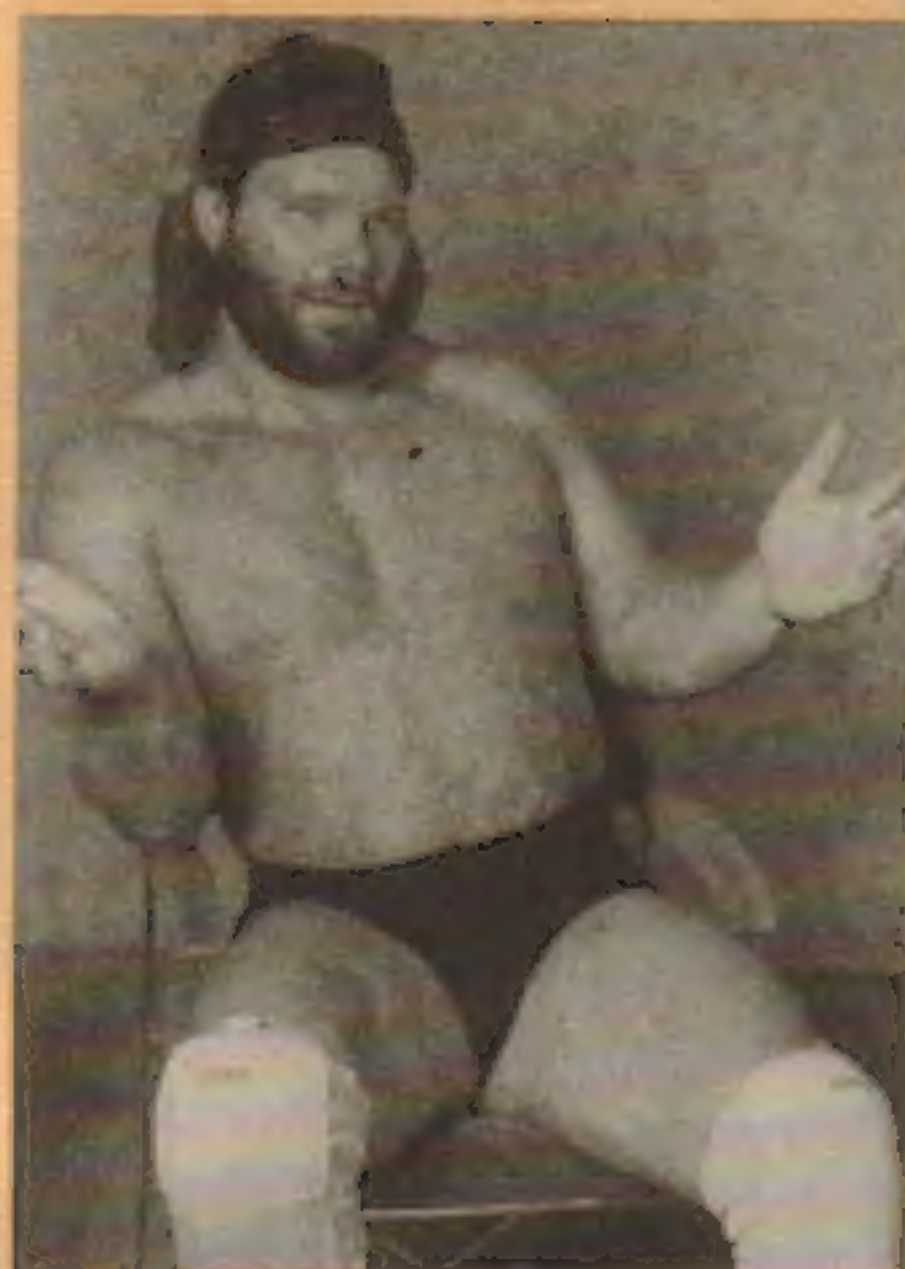


Hacksaw Duggan headlocks Butch Reed. Now that Duggan has joined the WWF, he may get matches against Reed, but he says his main target is Kamala.

time, Duggan had established himself as a national star, and there were only two other possible choices for a wrestler of his magnitude (and salary demands): the World Championship area and the WWF. When Duggan became available, McMahon sent his men down to Texas armed with a blank check. As seems to be the norm these days, McMahon won.

But who are the winners and the losers here? The UWF fans surely lost. But can Duggan fit into the WWF's somewhat unconventional atmosphere, or will he become yet another great star lost in the WWF shuffle? And how about the WWF? With its already overcrowded situation, can it find a spot for Duggan?

Just prior to his departure for the WWF, Duggan spoke with Senior Editor Bill Apter, Managing Editor Stu Saks, Associate Editor Craig Peters, and Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum about these questions and others, making for a most timely and noteworthy interview.



"I've never been the kind of guy to back down from a challenge. A challenge is what I go for. You know why the fans loved me in the UWF? Because I was like one of them."

BILL APTER: Of all the wrestlers in the world, you're the last person I ever thought I'd see go to the WWF.

HACKSAW DUGGAN: Bill, I can almost see what you're saying, but remember, I'm a down home country boy and this is gonna be like going home again. You forget, I'm from Glens Falls, New York, and that's right in the heart of WWF territory. When I wrestle at Madison Square Garden or the Meadowlands and in upstate New York, all the people I know from back home can come and see me.

CRAIG PETERS: But it's really been a long time, Hacksaw. You've been in the Mid-South area for most of your career, and before that you went to school at SMU in Texas and played pro football for the Atlanta Falcons. You know what they say: You can't go home again. This is kind of like backtracking, isn't it?

DUGGAN: Craig, my man, if you saw my contract, you wouldn't call this backtracking.

STU SAKS: Lucrative?

DUGGAN: I'd rather not discuss dol-



Duggan grabs UWF champion One Man Gang by the ear during a battle royal. Gang got the better of Duggan in a series of loser-leave-town matches, forcing Duggan out of the UWF. Now Hacksaw says he is anxious to wrestle close to his home town in upstate New York.

lars and cents. Let me just say that the WWF knows how to make you feel at home.

PETERS: But that's what a lot of wrestlers have thought, and then they find out that they're just part of McMahon's stable. Plenty of top-name stars, and I'm talking about guys like

Hercules Hernandez, Danny Spivey, Nikolai Volkoff, even Paul Orndorff, are playing bit parts in the WWF. You were main event, top draw in the UWF. The people came to see you. In the WWF, they come to see Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, Rick

(Continued on page 58)

Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage:

**EVEN WRESTLEMANIA III
CANNOT END THIS FEUD!**



Randy Savage and his manager Elizabeth (above left) know they are not nearly finished with Rick Steamboat (above right).

WrestleMania usually marks the conclusion to various feuds that have taken place during the previous year. But the war between Randy Savage and Rick Steamboat cannot be ended by one match. Only a crippling injury, or worse, can stop these men



Savage drapes Steamboat over the ring apron and delivers an elbowsmash to his throat (above). Steamboat pulls Savage to his feet (below). Despite the outcome of their match at WrestleMania III, this feud will not be over.



DESPITE ITS QUESTIONABLE preoccupation with celebrities, football players, circus sideshow acts, and guest referees whose ties to the sport are often suspect, WrestleMania somehow manages to restore a sense of order to the World Wrestling Federation.

There are problems and solutions. Hulk Hogan and Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff was the problem. WrestleMania I was the solution. King Kong Bundy vs. Hulk Hogan was the problem. WrestleMania 2 was the solution. Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan was another problem. WrestleMania III was to provide the solution.

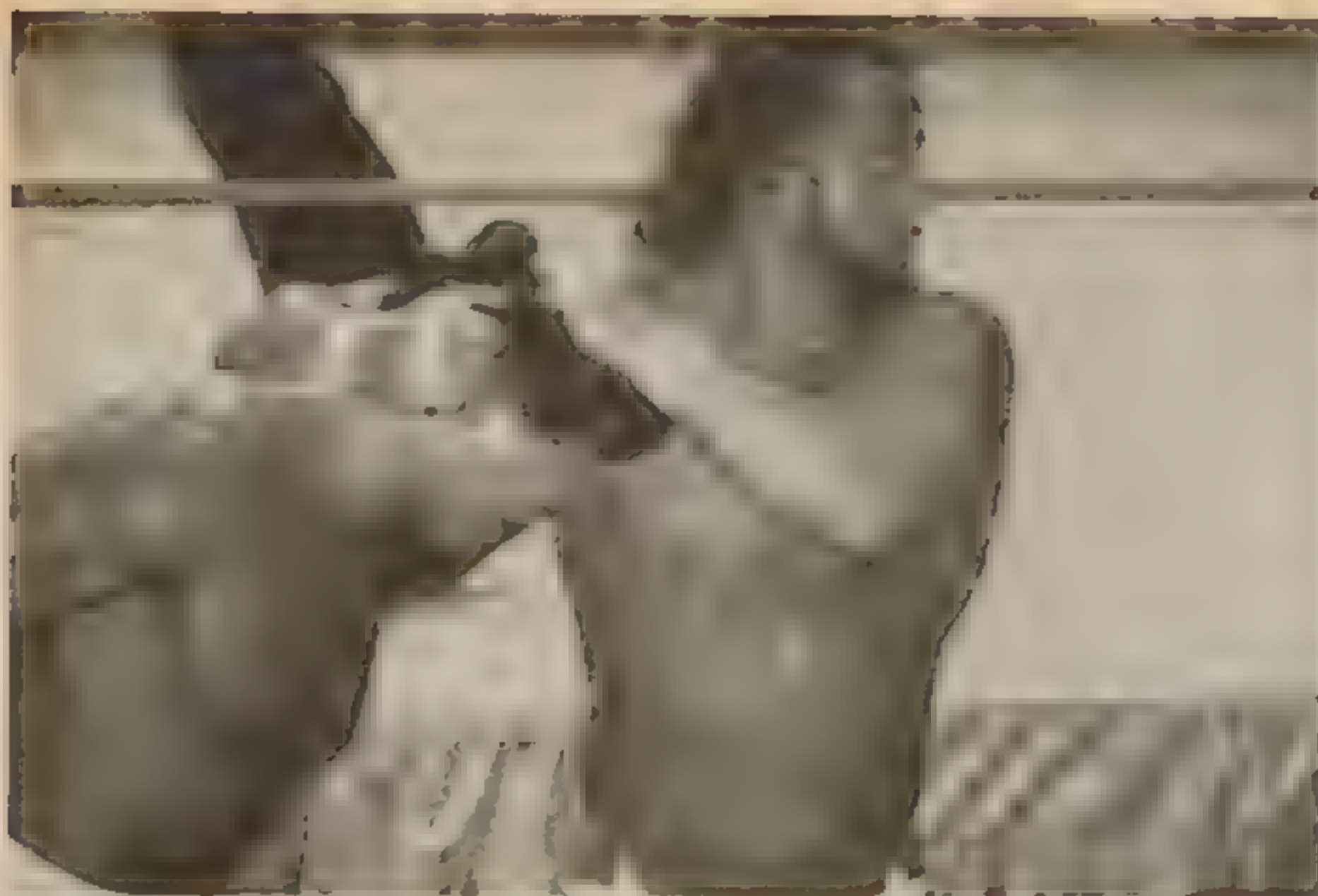
But there's one problem that even WrestleMania cannot solve. The feud between Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat and Randy "Macho Man" Savage could not be solved by any one match, regardless of how many people witnessed it. It did not come to a conclusion when Savage almost permanently injured Steamboat during a match at the Broome County Arena late last year, nor did it conclude with the matches between the men following Steamboat's convalescence.

For this is a feud that promises to go on and on.

This is a fight to the finish and only permanent injury can stop these men.

Bonnie Steamboat has tried to stop her husband from engaging in this senseless feud, but she has failed. "One night, just before Ricky was about to leave for his match against Savage, Bonnie hid the keys to their car," revealed a family friend. "Ricky went out of his mind looking for them, but she just played dumb. Finally, he went out to the car and spent an hour trying to jumpstart it. He eventually figured out what was going on and she gave him the keys."

Stories of Elizabeth and Savage are equally intriguing. "There was a night, I don't remember where it



Savage looks to ram Steamboat's head into the ringpost (above). Steamboat gives Savage's head a good twisting (below). The Marbo Man and The Dragon forget all else when they lock up in combat.

happened, when Liz refused to escort Savage to the ring because she didn't want him to wrestle Steamboat," said one wrestler. "Savage was ready to turn around and hit her, but there were other people in the room. She gave in. I guess Liz realized she'd better do it his way. But this just shows you the kind of tension this feud has brought about."

Those close to Savage and Steamboat had hoped for a WrestleMania III bout. They figured that it would be the culmination of the feud. With the title on the line, thousands upon thousands of fans in the Pontiac Silverdome, and millions more watching on closed-circuit television, how much hotter could the Steamboat-Savage feud get? WrestleMania is the World Series of wrestling, the answer to questions posed during the year.

But it was merely wishful thinking. Steamboat and Savage don't care about 90,000-seat football stadiums. They don't care about special guest referees and celebrities in the stands. They couldn't care less about worldwide press coverage and the national television audience. The tuxedo-clad wrestling officials are merely window dressing.

Steamboat and Savage could wage their war in a hallway closet



with nobody watching and it would mean the same. When these two archenemies step foot on the mat, it's as if an invisible brick wall has been placed around the ring, shielding Steamboat and Savage from the outside world, allowing them to concentrate on the task at hand: violence, mayhem, and revenge.

Even when viewed from a logical standpoint, and this feud certainly has nothing to do with logic, WrestleMania III would not have the impact to stop their battles. Steamboat wants the Intercontinental belt and is the number one challenger. At this point, there are few others in line. George "The Animal" Steele is merely a pre-

tender and Jake "The Snake" Roberts has his mind on other things. Steamboat is a stubborn man and he will not curtail his quest.

If Savage lost the Intercontinental title, he would certainly be hellbent on getting it back. There are only two things that Savage dearly prizes: Elizabeth and the I-C belt. To lose either would cause irreparable damage to his ego. That is why he is so determined to put Steamboat out of wrestling. He feels the need to eliminate the competition.

But Steamboat has pride. Should "The Dragon" lose at WrestleMania III, he'll no doubt redouble his efforts to capture the I-C belt. Should Savage lose the belt, the resulting war could be cataclysmic.

So, there is the unavoidable question that must be answered: Is this feud headed for a tragic conclusion? Steamboat was almost permanently injured by Savage. The blows he took to the throat could have been fatal. Doctors said that he should never wrestle again. Steamboat refused to listen.

Some call it pride. Some call it courage. Others call it stupidity. There are those wrestlers who have learned their lesson the hard way.

Tommy Rich and Buzz Sawyer learned their lesson in the Georgia area. Their feud was one of the most vicious and time-consuming in wrestling history. Rich, a young man who had already held the NWA World title, still had tremendous unfulfilled promise, but he got bogged down by the Sawyer feud. Incredible amounts of blood were spilled. Rich never did recover from that feud. He never lived up to his potential. Sawyer, too, was never the same.

There's always a lesson to be learned from the past. Lightning does strike twice. History does repeat itself. WrestleMania III will not stop the battle. Steamboat and Savage must do it on their own.

Before it is too late. □

Photos by Buddy Myers & Peter Rene



STING MUST TELL EDDIE GILBERT TO BUZZ OFF!

By Peter King

AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, it is my duty to take an active interest in the sport. Although a good part of my duties concern the editorial content of the magazine and its distribution, I realize that for *PWI* to be successful, the sport must flourish.

The first few years of a young wrestler's career usually set the tone for his future development. And when a budding superstar like Sting falls into the hands of a shifty manager like Eddie Gilbert, there can only be trouble ahead

For the most part, the sport depends on the development of young stars. Wrestling draws upon its rookie crop for talent, and unless there is a constant flow of new stars, the sport will die. It is for this reason that I decided to launch an investigation into the situation surrounding Sting and his manager Eddie Gilbert.

First, some background. Sting was

...elbowdrop. To the detriment of his career, Sting has not learned one scientific maneuver from his manager, Eddie Gilbert.



formerly a member of The Blade Runners before his tag team partner, Rock, left the UWF. Sting then teamed with manager Eddie Gilbert and the duo shocked everybody by winning the UWF tag team championship. Following a short title reign, Sting began to concentrate on individual wrestling and a partnership with Rick Steiner.

Despite all that happened, Sting had an outstanding 1986 and was voted second runner-up for Rookie of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. His future looked bright, but as 1987 began his career seemed to be taking an odd turn.

What follows are the results of my investigation. Some of my findings were shocking and revealed several disturbing factors hindering the career of this young star.

● Eddie Gilbert's relationship with his fiancée, the beautiful Missy Hyatt, has severely taken him away from time he can devote to Sting. Apparently, Gilbert is spending more and more time with Hyatt and less and less time with Sting. Sting is at the crucial developmental stages of his career and he needs to be nurtured by a knowledgeable, dedicated manager.

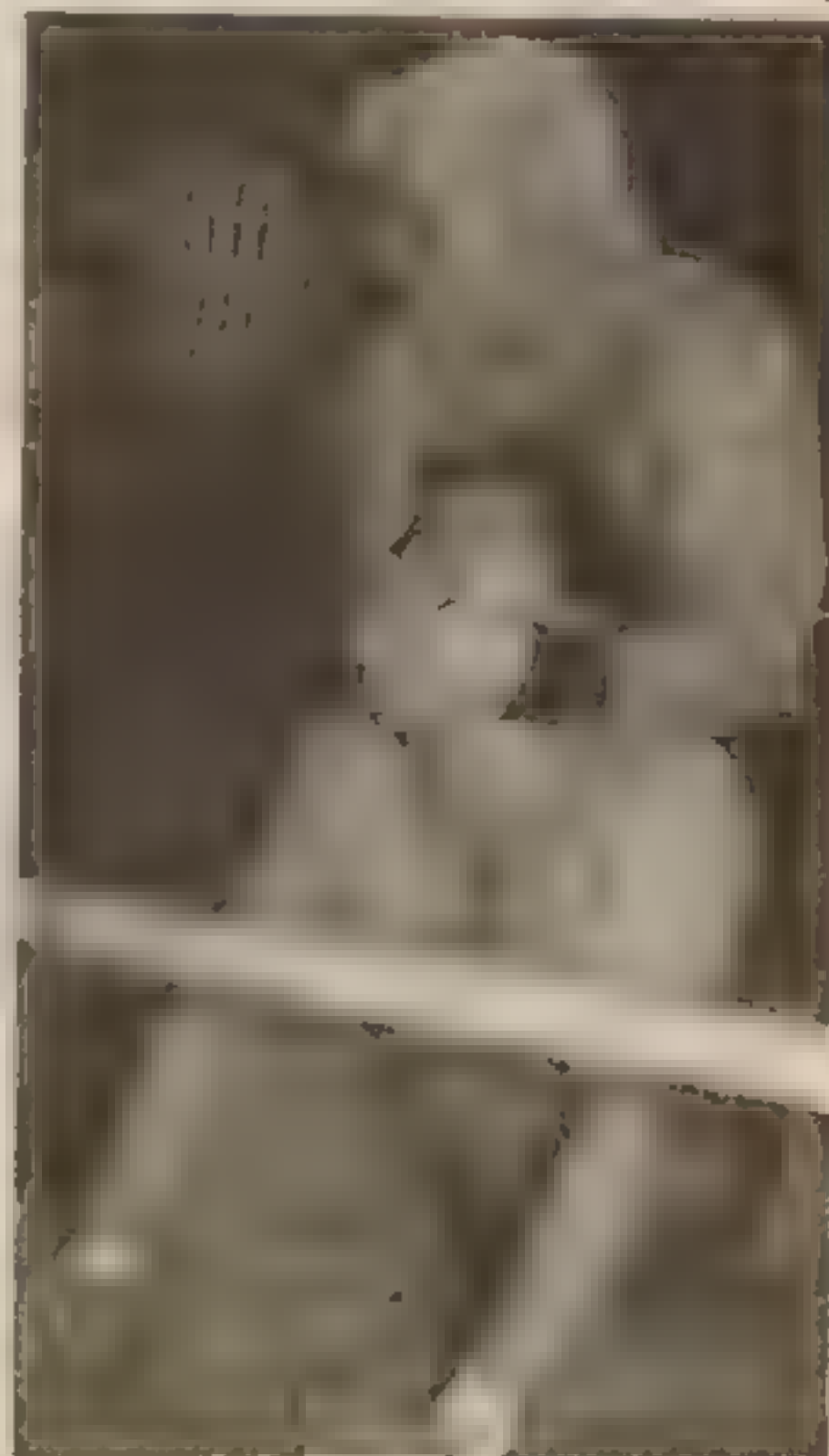
● Gilbert is not only unwilling, but unable to teach Sting the finer points of the sweet science. Insiders at Sting's

training sessions have told me that Gilbert has yet to show Sting one scientific maneuver. In fact, when Sting asked Gilbert when he'd show him the finer points of the game, Gilbert responded, "There are no finer points. The only thing you have to do is break their arms and legs."

● Sting privately holds Gilbert responsible for the breakup of The Blade Runners. Jack Victory, former associate of Hyatt and Gilbert, said, "Sting really felt that they had something going, but then Gilbert got into all that trouble with the UWF hierarchy, Bill Watts in particular. At the

time I thought Gilbert was right, but in the end he lost a couple of his wrestlers and The Blade Runners split up. That wasn't too smart. Sting didn't want to team with Gilbert after Rock left, but felt he had no choice."

● A most disturbing fact: Sting only has a one-year contract with Gilbert. For the most part, managers are very



Sting chinlocks Adams as Gilbert tries to interfere (above). Gilbert and Missy Hyatt are always present at ringside (left). The more time Gilbert spends with Hyatt, the less time he devotes to Sting's career.



Sting leaps off the top rope onto Sam Houston. Surprisingly, Sting only has a one-year contract with Gilbert. A long-term deal would indicate a greater commitment on Gilbert's part.

careful about revealing their secrets and strategies, and usually demand a five-year contract when they sign a wrestler. The fact that Gilbert only signed Sting to a one-year deal shows more than a lack of confidence and commitment. It seems to indicate that Gilbert might have plans to go elsewhere, maybe get married and leave wrestling. Where does that leave Sting?

● Missy Hyatt is getting in the way. This woman is concerned only with winning and doesn't have the patience to let a young wrestler develop. Sting needs time. Do you really think a woman like Missy will let Gilbert give Sting the needed time if he doesn't have a title to show for it? A telling moment: After Sting and Rick Steiner lost in the finals of the UWF tag team tournament, Hyatt was seen crying uncontrollably. This is a woman who doesn't stand losing.

When reached for comment on this subject, the parties involved made several noteworthy remarks.

Eddie Gilbert: "I'm not talking to you guys after what you said about me. You go and make Sting second runner-up for Rookie of the Year when he should have been Rookie of the Year, then you make it like I'm to blame for him not doing better. Well, if you think Sting can do better on his own, let's see it. All I know is that he's



Terry Taylor is slammed by Sting, who was once one-half of The Blade Runners. Sting reportedly holds Gilbert directly responsible for that team's breakup.

staying with me because I'm the man who's gonna make him rich and famous."

Missy Hyatt: "We all know that Eddie's the greatest wrestler in the world and Sting's lucky just to be a part of Hyatt and Hot Stuff Inc. He should be honored. Why, he's just a young boy, he doesn't have the experience of Eddie and me. And I'm plenty patient. I just know that Sting's gonna do something big by the end of this summer. That's long enough to wait, isn't it?"

Sting: "You reporters are always trying to stir up trouble. There's no problem between me and Eddie. He's do-

ing the right thing the way he's training me and if he says I don't need to know scientific moves, I don't. I can get by on raw power. And that contract is none of your business. Eddie and I have a gentleman's agreement."

But by now, Sting should know about Gilbert's agreements. We all saw how quickly Gilbert stabbed John Tatum in the back and ran off with Missy Hyatt. We've seen Gilbert hit his own father, referee Tommy Gilbert. We've seen Gilbert use every underhanded tactic in the book to get what he wants.

Sting might be his next unwilling victim. Indeed, for the sake of his career, Sting should tell Eddie Gilbert to buzz off.

Scouting Report

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED LOOK AT WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

Every other month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Scouting Reports will examine the relative strengths and weaknesses of wrestling's top stars. There will be no punches pulled as the sport's athletes undergo the harshest scrutiny anywhere in the wrestling world



BAD NEWS ALLEN

HOME TOWN: New York, NY
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 260
YEARS AS PRO: 3
RATING: No. 2 in Florida

STRENGTHS:

- **Conditioning.** While in the ring, Allen seldom rests, keeping his opponent ever on the defensive.
- **Brawling.** Is not afraid to mix it up with the most rugged of opponents.
- **Training.** Learned the basics of the sport under Japanese master Antonio Inoki.

WEAKNESSES:

- **Style.** Allen possesses world-class skills in the martial arts but is hesitant to blend those skills into his ring style.
- **Independence.** Perhaps a manager could guide his career to the success his skills indicate is possible.
- **Lack.** a versatility of finishing maneuvers.

OTHER COMMENTS: A former six-time AAU national judo champion. Won a bronze medal in judo in the 1976 Olympic games. After training with Inoki, made his pro debut in Japan on October 10, 1977. Credited by some with having run Lex Luger out of Florida. Recently held the Southern, Florida, and Bahamas belts simultaneously.

OUTLOOK FOR '87: As we go to press, Allen has lost his grip on the triumvirate of Florida titles. He must regroup and reconsider his immediate future, particularly in light of his recent conversion to fan favorite.



TOM ZENK

HOME TOWN: Minneapolis, MN
HEIGHT: 6'1½"
WEIGHT: 237
YEARS AS PRO: 3
RATING: No. 5 tag team (with Rick Martel)

STRENGTHS:

- **Dropkick.** Zenk's version of this maneuver is easily one of the top three in the sport, and gets more effective each day.
- **Power.** Former career as bodybuilder has provided Zenk with impressive strength.
- **Enthusiasm.** Approaches his new teaming with Martel with boundless energy.

WEAKNESSES:

- **Inexperience.** Zenk has only been a pro for three years; he has yet to face the sport's top competition.
- **Overprotective.** Young and good-looking, Zenk tends to protect his face in a violent match.
- **Image.** May be too preoccupied with becoming half of a "WWF Rock 'n' Roll Express."

OTHER COMMENTS: Held several bodybuilding titles, including Mr. Minnesota, Mr. Twin Cities, and Mr. North Country. . . Former Pacific Northwest champion and PNW tag team titlist with Scott Doring. Trained by Rick Martel, Zenk now regards Martel as his mentor. . . Together, Martel and Zenk are known as "The Can-Am Connection."

OUTLOOK FOR '87: Blindingly bright. The Can-Ams seem destined to capture the WWF World tag team belts by summer at the latest. And with Martel as his teacher, Zenk can only improve.



AUSTIN IDOL

HOME TOWN: Las Vegas, NV
HEIGHT: 6'
WEIGHT: 240
YEARS AS PRO: 15
RATING: Mid Southern champion

STRENGTHS:

- Deceptively strong. Idol may not be large by wrestling standards, but he possesses uncommon strength
- Fast. Idol is capable of confounding opponents with his catlike speed in the ring
- Ego. Believing he can win a match places him at an instant psychological advantage to his opponent

WEAKNESSES:

- Poor pacing. Often wrestles too hard too soon, burning himself out early in a bout.
- Can't be trusted. Idol's history shows several examples where he turned on his "friends."
- Goals. Has never wrestled long in a major federation; is content to be a big fish in a little pond

OTHER COMMENTS: Known as "The Universal Heartthrob" Enormously popular in the Continental area, despite his arrogance. Gained national fame in Georgia in 1981 through his feud with The Fabulous Freebirds. Captured the Mid-Southern title in a tournament final over Soul Train Jones in Memphis on February 3, 1987

OUTLOOK FOR '87: Idol is looking to establish a foothold in the mainstream, and the Mid-Southern area is the place to do it. His Mid-Southern title could lead to several AWA World title shots, and an AWA World title would prove to be the prize Idol's been seeking for so long



BOB ARMSTRONG

HOME TOWN: Marietta, GA
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 234
YEARS AS PRO: 21
RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Experience. Wrestling for over two decades has made him a very smart and wise grappler.
- Physique. Is in much better shape than most other currently active wrestlers in his age group
- Science. Is an excellent technical wrestler, and mixes those skills effectively in his bouts

WEAKNESSES:

- Age. Though still a tough wrestler, is admittedly past his prime
- Sons. Is reluctant to sever the ties with his sons, particularly Brad, and this has limited his own career in recent years
- Slow to recover from injuries. Age has simply stretched out the healing process

OTHER COMMENTS: A former marine and fireman, known early in his career as "The Fighting Fireman" A veritable superstar in the Continental area. . . Known as "Bullet" Bob Armstrong, it is common knowledge that he was actually the masked "Bullet" in the Continental area Disfigured in an attack by Ted DiBiase in early 1984

OUTLOOK FOR '87: Bob recently moved to the World Championship area, where he hopes to team with his son Brad. But with Brad's future brighter on the singles route, Bob may be left in the cold. He should seek another compatible tag partner, possibly Ole Anderson or Wahoo McDaniel



VLADIMIR PETROV

HOME TOWN: Moscow, Russia
HEIGHT: 6'1"
WEIGHT: 281
YEARS AS PRO: 1
RATING: No. 10 in World Championship

STRENGTHS:

- Power. A muscular man, Petrov possesses stereotypical Russian bearlike strength
- Training. Has been learning the rudiments of the sport from Ivan Koloff
- Fearless. Despite his lack of experience, is willing to step into the ring against anyone and everyone of Ivan's choosing

WEAKNESSES:

- Experience. Still in his rookie year, has mainly wrestled tag team bouts with Ivan against Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff.
- Competition. Though competition is limited, being in the midst of the Koloff-Koloff feud may be too much too soon for Petrov
- Slick. Petrov's version of this maneuver is sloppy at best

OTHER COMMENTS: Reportedly a boyhood rival of Nikita Koloff, though this has yet to be confirmed by a reliable source. Brought to America to feud with Nikita for the Kremlin in the wake of Nikita's embracing America. . . .

OUTLOOK FOR '87: . . . Petrov will be discarded by Ivan Koloff and the Kremlin as soon as the feud is settled. At that point, his career will end, unless he can assert his independence from Ivan.



BOBIS ZUKHOV

HOME TOWN: Leningrad, Russia
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 255
YEARS AS PRO: 1
RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Teamwork. Is an excellent tag partner, having demonstrated those skills in his pairing with Nord the Barbarian.
- Determination. Strong pro-Soviet ideology provides a strong-willed sense of purpose
- Speed. Of all the Russian grapplers currently active in the sport, may well be the fastest

WEAKNESSES:

- Science. Zukhov's technical ring skills are practically non-existent.
- Conditioning. Zukhov tends to get winded and loses strength after 10 minutes of a hard bout
- Split management. Advised by both Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie and Chris Markoff, resulting in obvious ring confusion

OTHER COMMENTS: First appeared in the Mid-South (now UWF) area. . . . Has wrestled primarily in the AWA. . . . His tag team with Nord the Barbarian was moderately successful. . . . Feuded with Sgt. Slaughter when Slaughter was AWA Americas champion

OUTLOOK FOR '87: Zukhov has floundered in the AWA of late. He's been wrestling low-level competition, and has lost matches to such opponents as Leon White. With Gordyenko and Smirnoff in the area, Zukhov is odd man out. He should get rid of at least one manager, leave the AWA and try and establish himself as a top contender elsewhere

The reunion of the Garvin brothers could have never happened without the input of Precious. In this *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* exclusive, Jimmy Garvin's valet and girlfriend reveals the events that led up to this wrestling shocker

YOU DIDN'T THINK it would ever happen, did you? Jimmy and Ronnie Garvin finally admitting to the world that they're brothers. Well, I'm taking this opportunity to tell you exactly how it happened. It didn't just happen overnight

About four months ago, I noticed that Jimmy was losing interest in his matches. He wasn't getting the title matches he deserved. As much as Jimmy and I tried, we just couldn't get a match against Ric Flair. I finally realized what a pompous fool Flair is when he turned down my last request for a match. "Precious, honey," he sneered. "You go tell your pretty boy that I'm too busy wrestling men to bother with a blow-dried clown like Jimmy Garvin.

"By the way, darling," he said as I was walking away. "The Horsemen and me are holding auditions for the Space Mountainettes tonight. Why don't you stop by? You might get lucky."

I was shocked! "You jerk," I screamed. "You know that Jimmy's the only man in my life. How dare you say that! You're a pig, Flair. I can't believe it's taken me so long to realize that." That day, it dawned on me that these guys Jimmy's been hanging around with are a bunch of losers. Flair, Blanchard, the whole lot of them. I knew things had to change if Jimmy's career was going to go anywhere.

It was around that time that I saw an article in *The Wrestler* (January 1987) called "They Must Make Their Choice Now: Garvin vs. Gar-

vin Or Garvin And Garvin," and I kind of laughed when I saw it because I don't think the guy who wrote that story realized how close to the truth he was.

Now, I've got something to say right here. I don't think it's fair the way the press has portrayed me as a whiny bitch who's trying to put a leash on her man. I never tried to take Jimmy away from his family and I've never been jealous of any other woman, because why would Jimmy want anybody else? And I don't think it's right that the press has put me in the middle of Jimmy and Ronnie, because this problem was theirs alone.

The truth is that Jimmy has always loved his brother, but they're so philosophically different in their styles, it just never made sense for them to have any contact. It just would have made things worse. Anyway, Jimmy had always hated Wahoo McDaniel, and there was

Ronnie always hanging around with Wahoo. That burnt Jimmy up. And, because of the media, Ronnie was convinced that I was keeping Jimmy away from him

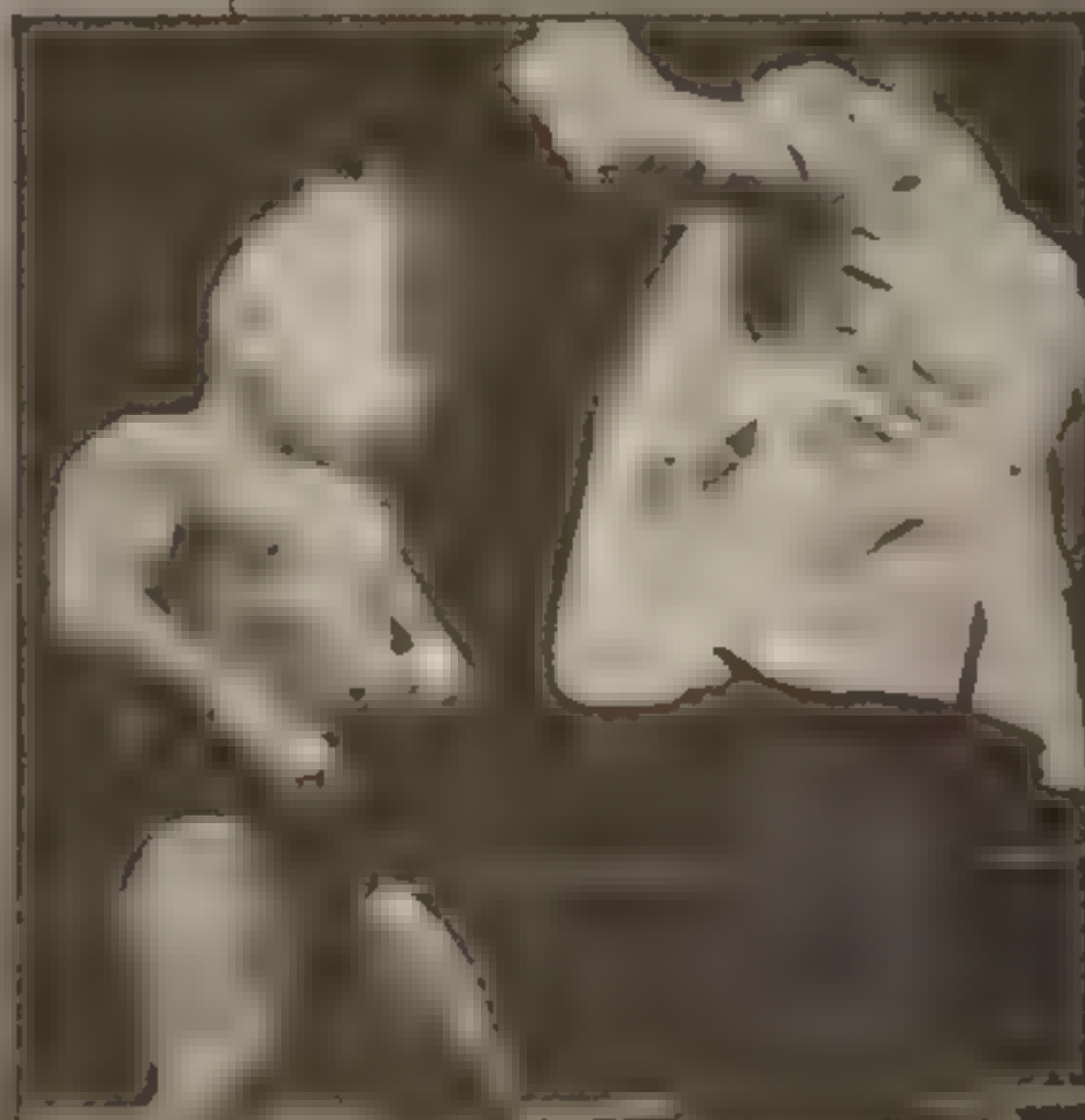
Well, Jimmy and I were sitting around in a restaurant one day and he just wasn't talking. I mean, he didn't say a word all evening. Finally, I got sick of just sitting there staring at a brick wall, so I asked him what was wrong. He started talking about that time in Montreal, you know, back in 1985, when he and Ronnie teamed up against Dino Bravo and Gino Brito Jr. for a night. He started talking about how much loyalty his brother showed by coming up there to help him.

So we got around to talking. I said to Jimmy, "Listen, honey, why don't you give Ronnie a call and talk things over." By this time, I was willing to do anything to get Jimmy out of this blue funk he was in. Jimmy looked at me with this

"HOW I BROUGHT JIM & RONNIE GARVIN TOGETHER



Jim and Ronnie Garvin have been reunited, thanks to Jim's valet Precious (left). After Ronnie had tee thrown in his face by Jim Cornette (below), Jim rushed to his aid.



AGAIN!!

By Precious

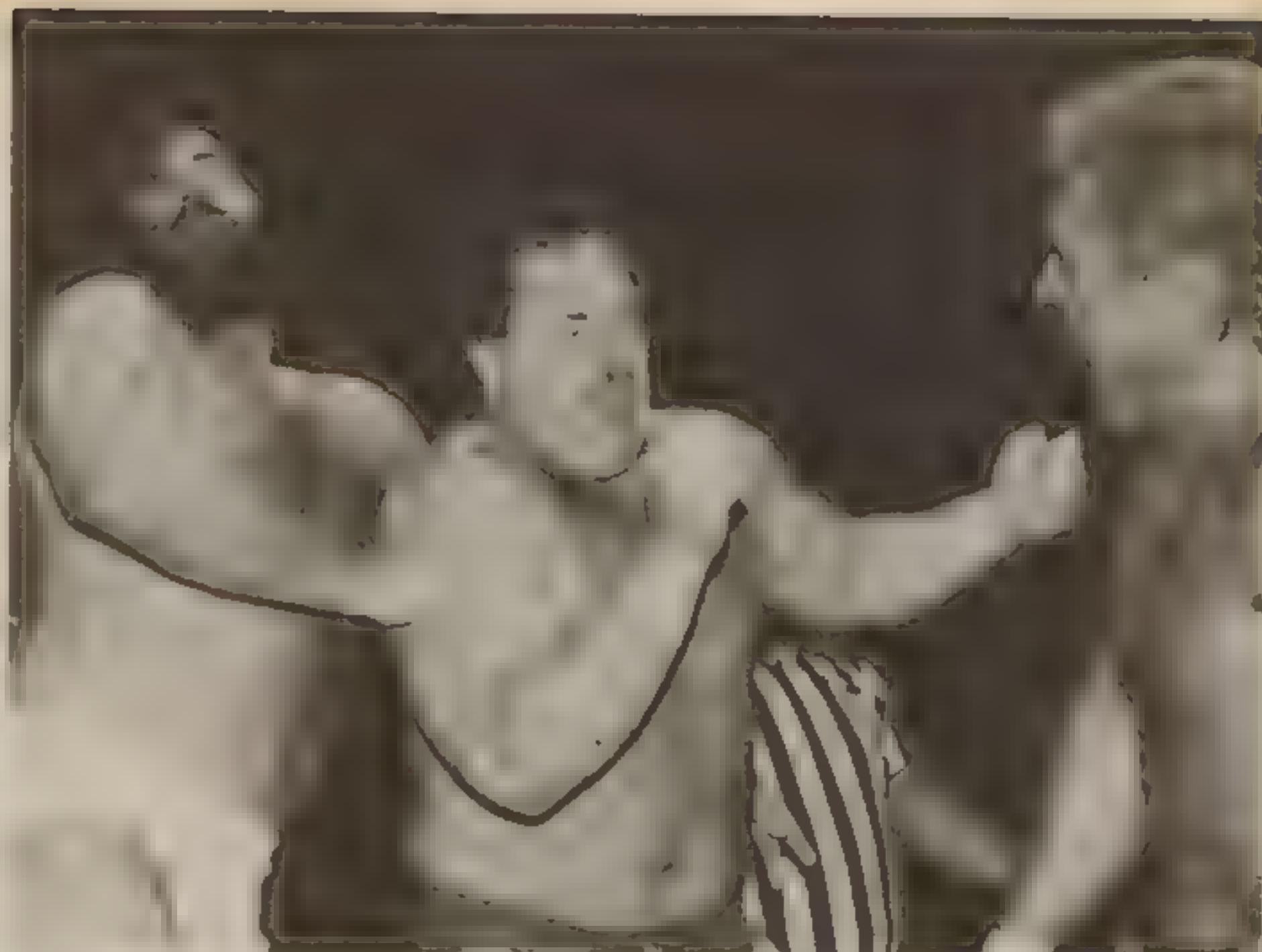


Cornette has been hiding deep cuts at Ronnie Garvin for months. During Garvin's street fight with Big Bubba at Starrcade '86, Cornette chopped him on the back of the knee with his tennis racket.

shocked look on his face. I remember him saying, "Precious, it's just not right. I have my friends and he has his. We're totally different people. Sometimes I wonder if he's really my brother."

Then I got to telling Jimmy about my conversation with Flair. It just burned him up. Since I've know him, I don't think I've ever seen Jimmy get that angry. I mean, he was ready to cause a scene in that restaurant, but I managed to get him under control. It was like, all of a sudden, right then and there, Jimmy's opinion of Flair and the Horsemen, all the people he's called his friends for so long, changed

He looked at me and said, "Precious, what they say is true. Blood is thicker than water. I betcha if I called my brother right now, he'd be over here in a second to speak with me." But Jimmy has a lot of pride. He just couldn't call his



The Garvins reunited briefly in Canada in 1985 when Jim needed Ronnie's help in a tag team match against Gino Brito Jr. and Dino Bravo. Jim and Ronnie, double-teaming Brito, had another falling out right after the match and didn't get together until just recently.

brother. So a few days later, the subject was dropped and I never thought it would come up again.

I guess the seed was planted. That night in February when Cornette threw fire in Ronnie's eyes, I turned to Jimmy and said, "Baby, this is it. That man in there is your brother and Cornette just tried to kill him. Flair and all those guys mean nothing to you. They're just trying to use you. Now get in there and save your brother!"

Jimmy just turned to me, gave me a kiss on the lips, and ran in. I followed after him because I knew what kind of danger he might be in. Anyway, I wasn't sure how Ronnie might react.

After it was all over, Jimmy left the hospital room and left me alone with Ronnie. I'll tell you, Ronnie was just in shock not only because of Cornette, but because of what just happened with his brother. He was really happy, though. Ronnie said to me, "Precious, do you approve of what your brother did?" and I said, "Ronnie, whatever makes him happy is fine with me. Besides, you guys are brothers and you belong together."

Well, that's it. That's how I brought the Garvin brothers back together again. This time, I think it's gonna stick. Blood really *is* thicker than water! □



Gordon Solie questions Terry, Jim, and Ronnie Garvin in a 1974 interview. At the time, Jim managed his two older brothers. It has taken Jim years to reconcile his differences with Ronnie. Precious thinks the wait was worth it.

RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

back. Sunshine pulled her down and Dark Journey took a bad fall.

A few nights later, Dark Journey was supposed to be in the corner for Guerrero and Link against Roberts, Hayes, and Sunshine in a penalty box match. But Dark Journey came out limping and said that she couldn't stay at ringside. Hayes laughed and said to Sunshine, "Then the penalty box match is over."

Just as Dark Journey said, "No, it isn't," Nikla came down the aisle.



Baby Doll has returned to wrestling, this time to the WWF under the name Nikla. She came at the request of Dark Journey, who was injured in a six-man match.

The rules of the match stated that each time a valet did something wrong, she would be put in the penalty box for a minute. After both women were sent to the penalty box a few times, a free-for-all took place and both teams were disqualified. Now Nikla finds herself in the middle of this heated feud. She's also been teaming with The Missing Link against **Eddie Gilbert** and **Missy Hyatt**.

Bam Bam Bigelow and **Jerry Lawler** were disqualified in a match against **Tommy Rich** and **Austin Idol** after Bigelow slammed referee **Jerry Calhoun** ... It looked like **Red River Jack** (allegedly **Bruiser Brody**) and **The Dingo Warrior** had defeated **Al Madril** and **Brian Adias** for the World Class tag team belts when Jack pinned Adias. But referee **Rick Hazzard** reversed the

decision because Dingo and Madril were, at the time of the pin, the legal men in the ring ... During a card in Baltimore, WWF ring announcer **Mel Phillips** announced that **Mike Rotundo**, now in the World Championship area, is in breach of contract with the WWF. Rotundo recently announced his intentions to move to the World Championship area, where he is slated to team with **Tim Horner** in the second annual **Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup** tag team tournament.

Intercontinental champion **Randy Savage** has been accused of hitting a nine-year-old boy at the Knight Convention Center in Miami. According to published reports, Savage and his manager, **Elizabeth**, were walking to the ring when **Jason Huffstutlear** reached his hand out. Savage then allegedly slugged the fourth-grader.

Versions of the incident differ. According to security guard **Aurelio Portuonodo**, the boy reached out of his seat and grabbed Elizabeth's hair. Portuonodo said that Savage merely slapped Huffstutlear. According to the boy, he leaned out to give Savage a high-five.

The Dade County State Attorney's office and the WWF are currently investigating the matter. Thus far, there have been no arrests. Huffstutlear was treated at an emergency room for a mark below his ribs and released later that night.

Ray Stevens and **Nick Bockwinkel** continue to wage war with **Larry Zbyszko**, **Mr. Salto**, and **Super Ninja** in the AWA. Zbyszko has been calling Stevens and Bockwinkel "The Over the Hill Gang." Stevens and Bockwinkel have a combined 70 years pro wrestling experience! ... **Bad News Allen** lost the Southern belt to **Kevin Sullivan**, and recently lost the Florida title to **Sir Oliver Humperdink**, but he still holds the Bahamas title ... **Hacksaw Duggan** pinned **Iron Mike Sharpe** in his Nassau Coliseum de-

but and received a tremendous response from the crowd.

Here's some interesting late news on the "Is **Red River Jack** really **Bruiser Brody**?" situation. On March 13, Jack was scheduled to team with referee **David Manning** against **Gary Hart** and **Nord the Barbarian**. The seconds? **Jeep Swenson** for Hart and Nord, Brody for Jack and Manning! Stay tuned!



The controversy over whether Bruiser Brody is Red River Jack continues. Brody says he is not the masked man, but Gary Hart believes otherwise.

Some sad news to report. Atlanta promoter **Ann Gunkel** died of cancer February 17. She was 50. Gunkel was the president of Gunkel Sports and became a promoter after her husband, wrestler **Ray Gunkel**, died of a heart attack following a match.



Atlanta promoter Ann Gunkel, posed with Ric Flair, has died of cancer at 50.

She was also a fashion model and manager of the Heart of Atlanta Hotel.

That's all for now. See you at ringside! □

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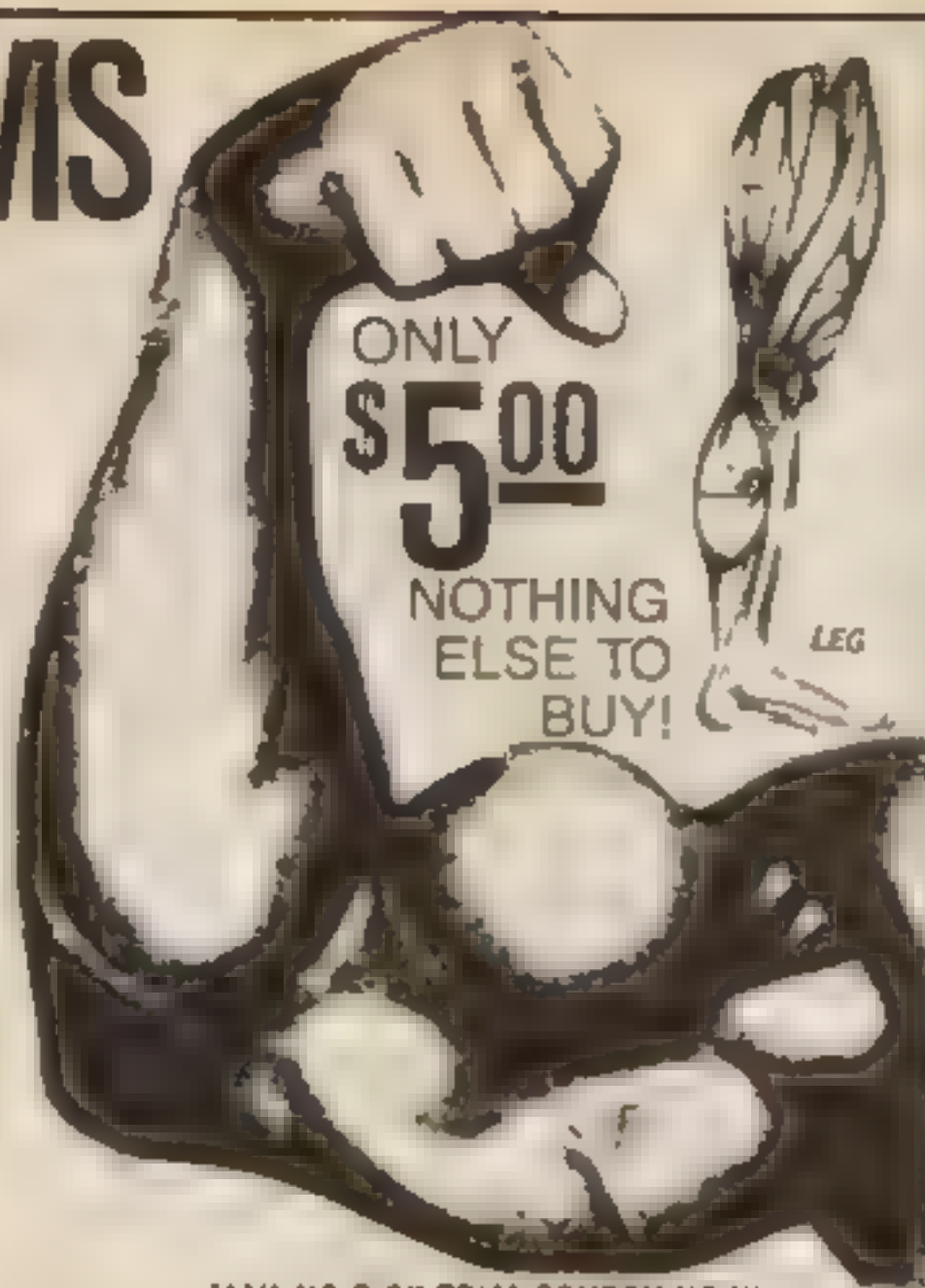
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)

Steamboat, Andre the Giant, the Bulldogs, The Can-Am Connection. From what I can tell, you've got your work cut out.

DUGGAN: Craig, I hear what you're saying, but I've never been the kind of guy to back down from a challenge. I'm a former Mid-South champion, tag team champion, I've wrestled men like Ric Flair and Dusty Rhodes. A challenge is what I go for. You know why the fans loved me down in the UWF? Because I was like one of them. I was



Iron Mike Sharpe is on the receiving end of Duggan's punishment. Duggan has always been an all-or-nothing type of wrestler.

a butt-kicking wildman, and I didn't mess around with nobody. The same thing that made me popular down there will make me popular in the WWF. Anyway, you guys seem to forget that I've been in the WWF before.

APTER: But that was at the start of your career and you were hardly a main-eventer. In fact, from what I can remember, you did most of your wrestling in small arenas in upstate New York. You're much different now and, need I say, the WWF is a totally different story.

DUGGAN: I'm not different, Billy, and that's what I've been trying to tell you. I might be more famous and I'm a much better wrestler now, but I'm the same man I've always been. Success

(Continued on page 60)

PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 58)

hasn't changed Hacksaw Duggan—and neither will the WWF.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Still, you must have some regrets about leaving the UWF.

DUGGAN: Absolutely, Dave, and in a few days when I pack my bags and take off, it's gonna be a sad time. Terry Taylor was a good friend of mine and I feel bad about leaving the tag team title behind. But what was I gonna do? The rules of that match against One Man Gang was that the loser had to leave. It wasn't fair at all, but I lost and I'm the kind of guy who doesn't sit around crying and making up excuses. I had no choice. I had to leave.

ROSENBAUM: I detect that you would have rather stayed in the UWF. Is that true, Hacksaw?

DUGGAN: Well, as I said, I have regrets, but the WWF made me a very fair offer. There comes a time in everybody's life when you have to move on, and I guess that time came for me. Ted DiBiase, Terry, Steve Williams, I'm gonna miss all you guys. As for [Skandor] Akbar and One Man Gang, something tells me I haven't seen the last of them 'cause we've still got a score to settle. And like I said, the fans down here have been great to me and I'm gonna miss them a whole lot.

SAKS: I've heard some people saying that you left the UWF to get away from Akbar and One Man Gang.

DUGGAN: Who are those people? They don't know nothing about contracts and they sure as hell don't know anything about Hacksaw Duggan. I had no choice but to leave. If Akbar and Gang want me, they know where I am. All I can say is come and get me.

PETERS: Interestingly enough, you're about to meet up with a lot of familiar faces when you return to the WWF. I'm sure you are aware that Hercules Hernandez, Kamala, Butch Reed, Nikolai Volkoff, and Jim Neidhart, all former Mid-South rivals of yours, are now in the WWF.

DUGGAN: You'd better believe I know it, and that's gonna be one of the great things about going to the WWF, getting the chance to settle some unfinished business with those guys. I'm especially looking forward to laying my hands on Kamala.



Skandor Akbar throws powder into Duggan's face as the Hacksaw wrestles Kamala. Duggan will come up against more crafty managers in the WWF.

ROSENBAUM: Yuck! Just the thought is disgusting.

DUGGAN: Well, he's not exactly a human being. I'm not sure what he is, but he'd better be ready for me 'cause I'm coming after him. This country boy means business and he's first on my list.

APTER: Kamala can be one tough customer, especially with Kim Chee and The Wizard at his side. He came very close to defeating Hogan for the WWF World championship.

DUGGAN: That's right, but he couldn't, because he's not a wrestler. The man is totally uncontrollable and he needs to be put out of wrestling, not only for the good of the sport but for the good of some poor sucker who's gonna find his head stuck on the end of Kamala's spear, just like on that cover of yours.

SAKS: You mean the March 1987 is-

sue of *Sports Review Wrestling*?

DUGGAN: Whatever. I just saw that and it rung true.

PETERS: When you compare the two, height- and weight-wise, Kamala and One Man Gang are very similar. That should help when you wrestle Kamala, shouldn't it?

DUGGAN: Not exactly, because Kamala is so much more vicious than Gang. One Man Gang is dangerous because he's able to think. Kamala is dangerous because he's never under control. It's like wrestling a wild beast.

APTER: Hacksaw, before we wind this thing up, do you have a message for the UWF fans?

DUGGAN: Absolutely, Bill. I'd just like to thank the fans for all their support, because I could never be where I am without them. The fans down in Texas and Louisiana have been great to me and that's what I'm gonna miss the most. As for Ted, Terry, and Doc, best of luck.

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ASTRONAUT HIGH SCHOOL GYM (Titusville, FL): Bad News Allen & Scott Hall beat Kevin Sullivan & Kareem Muhammad . . . Ron Simmons & Mark Starr beat Sean Royal & Chris Champion . . . Tracy Smothers pinned Bob Cook . . . Scott Hall beat Ed Gantner by disqualification . . . Cody James pinned Jerry Grey.

—Patrick L. Dollins

BALTIMORE ARENA (Baltimore): The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes defeated The Midnight Express & Big Bubba in a steel cage match . . . Ric Flair and Nikita Koloff battled to a double-countout . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Rick Rude & Manny Fernandez by disqualification . . . Lex Luger beat Wahoo McDaniel . . . Denny Brown and Manny Fernandez battled to a time-limit draw . . . Bobby Jagers pinned Shaska Whatley . . . Baron Von Raschke beat Thunderfoot I . . . Dutch Mantel pinned Ricky Lee Jones.

—Jim Sexton

BOSTON GARDEN (Boston): Jacques & Raymond Rougeau beat The Hart Foundation in a non-title match . . . Bruno Sammartino defeated Randy Savage by disqualification . . . Hercules Hernandez beat Billy Jack Haynes . . . Rick Steamboat defeated Samoan Sika . . . Dino Bravo beat S.D. Jones . . . King Kong Bundy defeated Pete Doherty by disqualification . . . Koko B. Ware beat The Red Demon.

—Billy Ellis

HENRY COUNTY FAIR (Paris, TN): David Haskins pinned Super Destroyer . . . The Memphis Vice defeated The Rock Steady Crew . . . Mr. Liberty clobbered Gypsy Joe . . . Fire & Flame defeated Jos LeDuc & Giant Hillbilly . . . Giant Hillbilly won a \$1,000 12-man battle royal.

—Dave Stein

LANSING CIVIC CENTER (Lansing, MI): The Killer Bees defeated The Hart Foundation in a non-title bout . . . Harley Race beat Junkyard Dog by countout . . . Roddy Piper destroyed Adrian Adonis . . . Dino Bravo & Johnny V. wrestled to a draw with Jacques & Raymond Rougeau . . . Siva Afi defeated The Assassin . . . Jerry Allen drew with Terry Gibbs.

—Michele Gomez

COPPS COLISEUM (Hamilton, Ontario): Angelo Mosca Jr. pinned Shaska Whatley . . . Joey War Eagle pinned Bullwhip Johnson . . . Lex Luger defeated Ricky Lee Jones . . . Arn Anderson pinned Tim Horner . . . The Midnight Express defeated Barry Windham & Hector Guerrero . . . Rick Rude & Manny Fernandez defeated Rick Morton & Bob Armstrong . . . Tully Blanchard defeated Dusty Rhodes by disqualification . . . Nikita Koloff defeated Ric Flair by disqualification.

—Dan Orgill

DORTON ARENA (Raleigh, NC): Ricky Lee Jones beat Denny Brown . . . Bob Armstrong beat Gary Royal . . . Vladimir Petrov & Ivan Koloff defeated Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner . . . Wahoo McDaniel defeated Shaska Whatley . . . Tully Blanchard & Lex Luger beat The Kansas Jayhawks . . . Nikita Koloff pinned Arn Anderson . . . Ric Flair defeated Barry Windham . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Rick Rude & Manny Fernandez in a non-title cage match.

—Andy Castardi

PAUL SAUVE ARENA (Montreal): Steve Strong & Abdullah the Butcher defeated Bruiser Brody & Hercules Ayala by disqualification . . . Dan Kroffat defeated Kendo Nagasaki by disqualification . . . Armand Rougeau drew with Richard Charland . . . The Hangman, Gino Brito, & Tony Gatillo defeated Gilles Poisson, Pretty Boy Chuck Sims, & Rocky Dellaserra . . . Sunny War Cloud beat Sweet Daddy Siki by disqualification . . . Leo Burke defeated Yvon Laverdure . . . Tiger Jackson pinned Puncho Boy . . . Rocky Dellaserra destroyed Renald Dubay.

—James Zafiris

PHILADELPHIA CIVIC CENTER (Philadelphia): Bob Armstrong pinned Gary Royal . . . Arn Anderson pinned Ricky Lee Jones . . . Lex Luger beat Eddie Roberts by submission . . . Wahoo McDaniel & Jim Garvin defeated The Midnight Express . . . Tully Blanchard pinned Tim Horner . . . Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff battled to a double-disqualification with Ivan Koloff & Vladimir Petrov . . . Ric Flair pinned Barry Windham.

—Roy Judley



LUBBOCK CIVIC CENTER (Lubbock, TX): Sting defeated Jeff Gaylord ... Chris Adams defeated Mike Boyette ... Sam Houston beat Mike George ... Chavo Guerrero & Ted DiBiase defeated Bill Irwin & Eli the Eliminator by countout ... Steve Williams defeated Angel of Death ... Ted DiBiase defeated One Man Gang in a no disqualification, non-title match.

—Victor Martinez

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN (New York): The Honky Tonk Man pinned Pedro Morales ... Roddy Piper, Junkyard Dog, & Rick Steamboat defeated Adrian Adonis, Harley Race, & Randy Savage in a six-man tag team elimination match when Piper pinned Savage ... Outback Jack pinned Barry O ... The Hart Foundation beat The Killer Bees ... Tito Santana and Butch Reed were both disqualified ... Koko B. Ware pinned Sika ... Demolition demolished The Islanders ... Paul Roma pinned Salvatore Bellomo.

—Rita Rhodes

METROPOLITAN CENTER (Bloomington, MN): The Midnight Rockers defeated Buddy Rose & Doug Somers ... Col. DeBeers beat Jimmy Snuka in a diamond miner's glove match ... Mr. Saito & Larry Zbyszko defeated Greg Gagne & Nick Bockwinkel ... Steve O beat Super Ninja by disqualification ... Buck Zumhofe pinned Brian Knobbs ... Kevin Kelly pinned Earthquake Ferris.

—David Oulman

MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM (Biloxi, MS): Rick Steiner defeated Mike Boyette ... Angel of Death pinned Jeff Gaylord ... Eli the Eliminator pinned Gary Young ... Michael Hayes & Buddy Roberts beat Ice-man Parsons & The Missing Link by disqualification ... Terry Taylor and Eddie Gilbert battled to a draw ... Steve Williams pinned Terry Gordy in a Texas death match ... Ted DiBiase and One Man Gang battled to a double-disqualification.

—Alfie Sumrall

OLYMPIC SADDLEDOME (Calgary, Alberta): Les Thornton and Johnny Smith battled to a time-limit draw ... Ron Bass pinned Lanny Poffo ... Jimmy Jack Funk defeated Mark Young ... The Iron Sheik beat Dick Slater by disqualification ... Harley Race pinned Junkyard Dog ... Roddy Piper beat Adrian Adonis ... Jake Roberts pinned Ted Arcidi ... Nikolai Volkoff defeated Cpl. Kirchner ... The Killer Bees & The Can-Am Connection beat The Hart Foundation & Demolition.

—Kelli Smith

RIVERFRONT COLISEUM (Cincinnati): Hulk Hogan beat Kamala ... Dick Slater pinned Jimmy Jack Funk ... Dino Bravo defeated Brad Rheingans ... The Can-Am Connection beat The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff ... Tito Santana drew with Jake Roberts ... Hercules Hernandez and Billy Jack Haynes were both counted out ... Paul Roma pinned Steve Lombardi ... Danny Spivey pinned Smash.

—Scott Baxter

TARRANT COUNTY COLISEUM (Tarrant County, TX): Matt Borne defeated Scott Casey ... Steve Simpson beat Roberto Soto ... The Fantastics and The RPMs battled to a double-countout ... David Manning defeated Gary Hart ... Red River Jack beat Tim Brooks ... Kevin Von Erich beat Al Madril ... Dingo Warrior defeated Bob Bradley to win the Texas title ... Abdullah the Butcher beat Tony Atlas to retain his brass knuckles title ... Kerry Von Erich defeated Brian Adias.

—Ruth Hagan

THE ARENA (St. Louis): Ric Flair beat Barry Windham by disqualification ... Dusty Rhodes defeated Tully Blanchard in a non-title first blood match ... Manny Fernandez & Rick Rude defeated Dick Murdoch & Baron Von Raschke ... Nikita Koloff pinned Arn Anderson ... Bill Dundee beat Brady Boone ... The M.O.D. Squad defeated Brad & Bart Batten ... Pork Chop Cash beat Dave Peterson ... The Midnight Express & Big Bubba defeated The Italian Stallion, Ron Garvin, & Todd Champion.

—David Schmitt

RECAP: These guys are champions? The Hart Foundation has not exactly represented the WWF World tag team title well since winning the belts. They dropped non-title matches in Boston and Michigan, then lost a six-man match in Calgary. However, Jim Neidhart and Brett Hart have fared much better with the title on the line ... Ric Flair is starting to take over in his battles with Barry Windham. The NWA World champion's pin of Windham at the Philadelphia Civic Center might be a sign of things to come ... Kerry Von Erich's victory over Brian Adias at the Tarrant County Arena was in his comeback match. Recent reports, however, state that Kerry reinjured his leg and might not return for some time ... As for the mailbag, WWF readers continue to send in the most results, followed by the NWA and UWF. We're looking for representation from every area in the country. Don't be bashful! Send in those arena reports! □

JIM CORNETTE LOCKED IN LEGAL BATTLE WITH NWA

By CRAIG PETERS

"Cornette was emotionally out of control after that



"And he never will," Cornette raved. "What's he want, revenge for burning his face? Hey, it wasn't my fault, I didn't throw fire! I was taking a camera out of my pocket to take a picture of the shocked look on Ronnie's face after my man pinned him, and the flash-bulb exploded! I'm sorry, it happens, but that's that, and I'm not wrestling him, period! Mama's lawyers are on the case, and I will not have to give in, and that's that!"

Bruno Honored By Italian-Americans



Bruno Sammartino was honored by the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame.

By BILL APTER

PITTSBURGH—Two-time WWF World heavyweight champion Bruno Sammartino was honored at a March 1 banquet at the New Vista Hotel here as he was inducted into the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame.

Sammartino, who was honored along with pro football's Franco Harris and Joe Walton, were voted into the Hall of Fame by a committee of Pittsburgh civic leaders.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me for this wonderful honor," Sammartino told *Wrestling Enquirer*, "and I'm flattered to be placed in the same class as two of pro football's finest individuals.

"I also want to add that this organization does a lot of good work," Sammartino continued. "All proceeds from the awards dinner went to the very worthy cause of funding eight scholarships for underprivileged achievers in the greater Pittsburgh area. I'm honored to be associated with these people, and I'm honored to be a Hall of Fame member."

Snuka-Southern Combination Takes Tag Title

By DAVID ROSENBAUM

MEMPHIS—Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and J.T. Southern combined forces here on March 2 to defeat the team of Akio Sato and Tarzan Goto and capture the Mid-Southern International tag team championship. It was Snuka's first match in Memphis since deciding to split his time between the AWA and Mid-Southern areas.

"I want to say, brother, that my man, J.T. Southern, is a sensational wrestling partner," Snuka said, "and that to defeat Sato and Goto, you actually have to defeat a threesome that also includes their manager Tojo Ya-

mamoto, and brother J.T. handled a three-on-two very admirably."

Is Snuka ready to wage a war on two fronts, one defending the tag belts in the Mid-Southern area, and another feuding with Col. DeBeers in the AWA?

"I am ready for anything, brother," Snuka replied. "DeBeers should take this victory as a warning, and all tag team opponents should look to the pain and suffering inflicted on DeBeers if they want to know what I have in store for them, along with J.T. Southern, brother. The Superfly is flying, brother, more super than ever!"

Humperdink Gives Florida Title To Gantner

By PETER KING

TAMPA, FL—Sir Oliver Humperdink, who had defeated Bad News Allen for the Florida title (with the aid of



Sir Oliver Humperdink won the Florida title, then gave it to Ed Gantner.

Southern champion Kevin Sullivan), has handed the championship over to his charge, Ed "The Bull" Gantner.

"A man of my knowledge, of my experience, and of my business acumen is far too busy to be spending his time defending a major title such as this," Humperdink said. "Mr. Gantner is a worthy champion, and he will serve the title well."

A consortium of Florida wrestlers, including Mike Graham, Scott Hall, and Bad News Allen, filed an injunction against Gantner being allowed to hold and defend the title. The NWA is currently reviewing the situation.

"There's no big deal," Humperdink asserted. "The title was mine to do with as I wished. I wished to give it to Gantner, and Gantner is now the champion. I know the rules and by-laws of the NWA, and I'm well within my rights to do so."

AROUND THE GLOBE

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Standing-room-only crowds recently thrilled to a series of outstanding six-man matches as British Bulldog Davey Boy Smith joined Owen Hart and Ben Bassarab to battle Makhan & Gama Singh and Viet Cong Express #1. A scheduled cage match between the two teams was rescheduled to a larger building when a street fight match between the two teams saw nearly 1,000 fans turned away from the building. Smith wrestled in the Calgary area only for about three weeks.

SAPPORO, JAPAN

All-Japan Wrestling superstar and former International tag team champion Riki Choshu has announced his engagement and intentions to marry in May. Choshu, who may currently be Japan's most popular wrestling star, is a fixture atop the All-Japan ratings, and is set to challenge for the NWA World heavyweight title during Ric Flair's current tour of this island nation.

INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

Wrestling Enquirer has received reports that former AWA World heavyweight champion Otto Wanz is negotiating to come to the United States and challenge current AWA kingpin Nick Bockwinkel for the crown. Wanz defeated Bockwinkel for the title in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 29, 1982, and remained champion until Bockwinkel regained the belt about six weeks later, on October 9.